

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Kiyohito ISHIDA et al.

Appl. No: 10/560,072

Confirmation No: 9656

Filed: December 9, 2005

For: CONTINUOUS VACUUM  
CARBURIZING PROCESS AND  
APPARATUS FOR METAL WIRE,  
METAL STRIP OR METAL PIPE

Art Unit: 1793

Examiner: Weiping Zhu

Atty. Docket No: 31238-225900

Customer No:

**26694**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

**AMENDMENT**

**Mail Stop RCE**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed December 8, 2008, Applicants submit the following Amendment and Reply with the concurrently-filed Request for Continued Examination. The Application is amended as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing of the Claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.